

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF SLOVENIA

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Slovenia remained a modest producer of minerals, with mining activities limited to the production of such mineral fuels as coal, lignite, natural gas, and petroleum and a limited amount of industrial minerals. The country, however, had perhaps the most modern metal fabricating industry among the successor states of the former Yugoslavia.

In 1998, Slovenia's gross domestic product rose by about 4% compared with that of 1997; the value of industrial production increased by 3.9%. In the minerals sector, only the coke and petroleum branch was reported to have had a major decline (more than 50%) in the value of output during the year. Significantly, Slovenia's petroleum producer's (NAFTE) 600,000-metric-ton-per-year Lendava refinery was in the process of closure during the year. The Lendava refinery, Slovenia's only refinery, was reported to be consistently losing money in recent years, and the cost of modernization was reported as prohibitive (Petroleum Economist, 1998).

The total value of smelted and refined base-metals production in 1998 rose by 3.4% compared with that of 1997. One of the chief issues in the metals branch was the privatization of the Jeklo Store d.o.o. steelworks. In July, Swedish steel producer

Inexa Profil was the leading foreign company bidding to operate Store in a joint venture with Unior of Slovenia. Negotiations were expected to last several months (Metal Bulletin, 1998).

Late in the year, Slovenia and Croatia appeared to be nearing a resolution of a dispute about the ownership and disposition of the Krsko Nuclear Power Plant. Although located in Slovenia, the Krsko facility was jointly constructed by Slovenia and Croatia during the period of the Yugoslavian Federation. Following the dissolution of Yugoslavia the legal ownership status of Krsko came into doubt. On November 27, the Governments of both countries reportedly agreed to resolve the plants future on a co-ownership basis (HINA, 1998).

References Cited

- HINA, 1998, Zagreb, Ljubljana agree on co-ownership solution to Krsko: HINA, 1752 GMT, November 27; from Foreign Broadcast Information Service, ID—FTS19981127001266, entry date 11/27/98.
Metal Bulletin, 1998, Inexa bids to Run Store with Slovenia company: Metal Bulletin, no. 8296, July 20, p. 3.
Petroleum Economist, 1998, Slovenia: Petroleum Economist, v. 65, no. 9, September, p. 121.

TABLE 1
SLOVENIA: APPARENT PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/ 2/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 e/
METALS					
Aluminum:					
Alumina	3,000	14,000	88,000 r/	85,000 e/	100,000
Metal, ingot, primary and secondary	76,741	57,692	59,486 r/	74,400 r/	70,000
Iron and steel, metal:					
Ferroalloys:					
Ferrochromium	13,412	23,247	23,142 r/	9,232	10,000
Ferrosilicocalcium e/	200	200	200	200	200
Ferrosilicon e/	12,000	12,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Crude steel from electric furnaces	424,000	407,000 r/	328,000 r/	400,000 e/	400,000
Semimanufactures	189,071	175,000	175,000	150,000 r/	150,000
Lead:					
Mine output:					
Ore, gross weight (Pb-Zn ore)	25,000	--	--	--	--
Pb content of ores e/	350	--	--	--	--
Metal:					
Primary and secondary:					
Smelter e/	8,000	8,000	6,000 r/	7,000 r/	7,000
Refined	7,425	7,237	5,601 r/	6,000 r/	6,000
Semimanufactures, rolled	252	271	241 r/	300 e/	300
Mercury kilograms	6,000	5,000 r/	-- r/	-- r/	--
Zinc:					
Zinc content of Pb-Zn ore	300	--	--	--	--
Metal e/	2,500	2,500	2,000	--	--
Semimanufactures, rolled	10,773	11,851	10,692 r/	12,000 e/	11,000
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS					
Cement thousand tons	898	991	1,026 r/	1,113 r/	1,100
Clays:					
Crude:					
Ceramic clay e/	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Fire clay	589	--	600	--	--
Kaolin: e/					
Crude	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Washed	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Gypsum, crude e/	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Lime thousand tons	160	149	136 r/	140 r/	150
Pumice and related materials, volcanic tuff e/	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Quartz, quartzite, glass sand: e/					
Quartz and quartzite	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Glass sand	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total	210,000	210,000	210,000	210,000	210,000
Salt, all sources	11,230	2,738	4,033 r/	5,000 e/	5,000
Sand and gravel, excluding glass sand thousand tons	7,134 r/	8,693 r/	10,498 r/	10,298 r/	10,000
Stone, excluding quartz and quartzite, dimension, crude: e/					
Ornamental cubic meters	254,000	237,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Other do.	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Crushed and brown, n.e.s. thousand cubic meters	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
Coal:					
Brown coal thousand tons	1,079	967	841 r/	1,193 r/	1,100
Lignite do.	3,775	3,917	3,937 r/	4,163 r/	4,100
Natural gas, gross production thousand cubic meters	12,595	18,220	12,840 r/	12,100 r/	12,500
Petroleum:					
Crude:					
As reported thousand tons	1,716	1,858	1,400 r/	1,100 r/	900 3/
Converted thousand 42-gallon barrels	13,000	14,000	10,500 r/	8,200 r/	7,000
Refinery products e/ do.	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Table includes data available through May 1999.

2/ In addition to commodities listed, common clay also was produced, but available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output levels.

3/ Reported figure.

TABLE 2
SLOVENIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 1998

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Alumina	Talum d.o.o.	Plant at Kidricevo	120
Aluminum	do.	Smelter at Kidricevo	72
Coal:			
Brown	SOZC, Rudarsko Energetski Kombinat E. Kardelj, Trobovlje, Slovenia	Sasavski Rudnici Mines at Trbovlje, Hrastnik, Ojstro, Senovo, and Kanizarnica	1,300
Lignite	Rudarsko Energetski Kombinat Velenje, RO Rudnik Lignita-Velenje	Mine at Velenje	5,000
Cement	Salonit Anhovo	Plant at Anhovo	1,120
Lead, metal	Rudnik Svinca in Topilnica, Mezica	Smelter at Mezica	35
Do.	do.	Refinery at Mezica	30
Mercury	Rudnik Zivega Srebra, Idrija	Mine and smelter in Idrija	15,000 1/
Petroleum, refined	Industrija Nafta (INA) Rafinerija Nafta Lendava	Refinery at Lendava	16 2/
Pig iron	Združeno Podjetje Slovenske Železarne	Two blast furnaces at Želazara Jesenice	300
Do.	Železara Store	Electric reduction furnaces at Store pri Celju	290
Steel, crude	Združeno Podjetje Slovenske Železarne	Plant at Jesenica	500
Do.	do.	Plant at Ravne	162
Do.	do.	Plant at Store	140

1/ Flasks per year.

2/ Thousand barrels per day.